

and told him, Father, I know your thoughts are distracted, and I am sent to quiet them; therefore if you will accompany me a few days, you shall return well satisfied of all those doubts that now distress your mind; so going along with him they were to pass over a deep river whereon there was a narrow bridge, and meeting there with another passenger, the young man jostled him into the water, and so drowned him.

The old Hermit being much astonished hereat, would fain have left him, but his guide said, father, be not amazed, for I shall give you good reason for what I do, and you shall see stranger things than this before you and I part; but at last I shall settle your judgment and put your mind in full repose. So going that night to lodge in an inn where there was a crew of banditti and debauched ruffians, the young man join'd in their company, and revelled with them till the morning, while the Hermit spent most of the night in numbering his beads; but as soon as they were departed thence, they met with some officers who went to apprehend that crew of banditti they had left behind them.

The next day they came to a gentleman's house which was a fine palace, where they received all the courteous hospitality which they could wish for, but in the morning as they departed there was a child in the cradle, which

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was the only son of the gentleman, the young man spying his opportunity, stole the child without concern, and then away. The third day they came to an inn, where the man of the house treated with all the civility that could be, gratis too, yet the young man emboldened by the silver goblet and carried it away in his pocket, which still more encreased the amazement of the Hermit. The fourth day, in the evening they came to lodge at another inn, where the host was very fullen and uncivil to them, acting much more than the value of the money they had spent, yet at parting the young man bestowed upon him the silver goblet, which he had stolen from that host who had used them so kindly.

The fifth day they went toward a distant town, but some miles before they came to a place where they met a merchant at the close of his journey, who had a great charge of money about him, and asking the next passage to the town, the young man put him in quite a contrary way, the Hermit and his guide being contrived to go the other way. At the gate they espied a devil lay as it were centinel, but he was so cunning that they found also both men and women, and dry kinds of sports, some dancing, some singing, with divers sorts of revelling, and so they went afterwards to a convent of Capuchins, where about the gate they found